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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Trade in Goods and Services,
and Commodities
Second session
Geneva, 17 November 1997
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 Election of officers

1. In accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the main Committees of the Trade and Development Board, the Commission shall elect a Chairman, five Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur from among the representatives of its members, taking into account the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution. Moreover, rule 19 of the same rules of procedure states that the Bureau of the Commission shall consist of seven members (i.e. four members from Lists A and C combined, two members from List B and one member from List D referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) as amended).

2. Accordingly, following the cycle of rotation established after UNCTAD IX, the bureau for the second session of the Commission shall be as follows: Chairman from List A (Asia); Rapporteur from List D; and five Vice-Chairmen (3 from Lists A and C, and 2 from List B).

Item 2 Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. The provisional agenda for the second session of the Commission, as reproduced in section I above, was approved by the Commission at the second part of its first session on 21 February 1997 (TD/B/44/5, annex IV).

4. Concerning the organization of the work of the session, the Commission has five days available. It is suggested that the agenda items be taken up sequentially, with the first plenary meeting on Monday, 17 November, being devoted to procedural matters, introductory statements and the commencement of the discussion under item 3. The last plenary meeting, on Friday, 21 November, would be devoted to the adoption of any formal action and to items 7 and 8.

5. The secretariat will prepare a detailed programme of the session, which will be made available on the first day of the session.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.1/11 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3 Diversification in commodity-dependent countries

6. This item will serve to revitalise the commodities debate, as commodity dependence remains a pressing concern for many developing countries. Diversification in production and trade is an integral element in the development and economic restructuring and industrialisation of marginalised economies, notably in Africa and the LDCs, many of which are commodity-dependent. Beyond the objectives pursued by diversification strategies, such as export revenue improvement and stabilization, the Commission session may provide an opportunity to explore the developmental aspects of diversification policy, such as increased value added and its retention in the exporting country, and the impact of diversification efforts on producer incomes.

7. The global environment, where processing steps are increasingly divided between different locations, has altered the way Governments and the enterprise sector undertake diversification measures. The Commission members may wish to

exchange experiences on how Governments are adapting their domestic trade and sectoral policies to this new environment, and on the extent to which they see a case for increased supportive measures to enable commodity-dependent developing countries to diversify. This might also include a discussion on shortcomings in diversification policy due, for example, to conflicting policy objectives.

8. Commission members may also wish to explore how various forms of inter-enterprise cooperation and economic and social institutions might be tapped with a view to promoting successful diversification. Discussions could also touch on the respective roles of the enterprise sector in agriculture and industry, economic and social infrastructure, finance and investment, and institutional support in strengthening and accelerating diversification efforts.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.1/12 Report by the UNCTAD secretariat

Item 4 Ways and means for improving the opportunities for the expansion of exports of goods and services from developing countries

9. This item will first permit an examination of opportunities and challenges for developing countries in expanding trade in goods in the post-Uruguay Round environment. Sectors where some developing countries have recorded dynamic export performances may provide an indication of export opportunities in international markets for other developing countries. Such sectors may, therefore, be identified, keeping in mind that the dynamic sectors are likely to vary depending on the level of development of particular developing countries. At the same time, attention has to be drawn to the obstacles such as market access barriers and supply-side constraints which still prevent many developing countries from taking optimal advantage of new market chances.

10. Furthermore, this item will permit an examination of ways and means to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to export services. Issues for examination would include opportunities and challenges faced by developing countries in delivering services to world markets, the importance of well-designed export strategies, the role of new technologies in the supply of services and improvements in statistics on services trade. Finally, this item will provide the opportunity to examine the scope for future initiatives to enhance export opportunities of developing countries.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.1/13 Report by the UNCTAD secretariat

Item 5 Reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission

11. In accordance with paragraph 114 of "A Partnership for Growth and Development" (TD/378), subsidiary bodies should report technical matters discussed at the expert level to the parent Commission, which may transmit them to the Board as appropriate. The Commission will consider their findings and discuss the policy implications. The Commission should, when appropriate, make the results of its expert meetings available to other relevant Commissions.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.1/7 TD/B/COM.1/EM.1/3	Report of the Expert Meeting on Strengthening the Capacity and Expanding Exports of Developing Countries in the Services Sector: Health Services
	Report of the Expert Meeting on Vertical Diversification in the Food Processing Sector in Developing Countries[1]
	Report of the Expert Meeting on Positive Measures to Promote Sustainable Development, Particularly in Meeting the Objectives of MEAs[1]
	Report of the Expert Meeting on Trade and Investment Impacts of Environmental Management Standards, Particularly the ISO 14000 Series, on Developing Countries[1]

Item 6 Provisional agenda for the third session of the Commission

12. In accordance with rule 8 of the rules of procedure of the main Committees, the secretariat will submit during the session a draft provisional agenda for the third session of the Commission.

13. Furthermore, in accordance with the decision taken at UNCTAD IX (para. 114 of "A Partnership for Growth and Development"), the Commission may convene expert meetings of short duration, not exceeding three days, in order to benefit from a higher level of technical expertise. Expert meetings should receive from the parent Commission precise terms of reference. In the light of the provisional agenda for the third session, the Commission is expected to decide on the expert meetings to be convened during 1998.

Item 7 Other business

Item 8 Adoption of the report of the Commission to the Trade and Development Board

14. The report of the Commission will be adopted at the final plenary meeting of the second session and submitted to the Trade and Development Board for consideration.

[1] Symbol of report not available at time of writing.